

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 11, 15, 25, and 34 are amended for purposes of expediting prosecution, and dependent claims 2, 5, 12, 16, 19, 26, 28, 35, and 37 are amended for consistency with the amended base claims. Example embodiments of the added limitations are shown in FIGs. 2 and 3 and described in the accompanying paragraphs of the specification (beginning at paragraph [0027]). Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of the original claims (prior to amendment) in subsequent prosecution. Claims 1-42 remain for consideration and are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

The objection to claims 5, 19, 28, and 37 is thought to be addressed by the amendments to the base claims in which respective error flags are associated with the columns of memory cells. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 25-42 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention is respectfully traversed. However, these claims have been amended, and the rejection is now moot. Example embodiments illustrative of the amendments to these claims may be found in FIG. 8 and paragraphs [0011], [0057], and [0058], for example.

The rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27-30, 32-34, 36-39, 41, and 42 under 35 USC §103(a) over “Cliff” (US Patent No. 5,498,975 to Cliff et al.) in view of “Rao” (US Patent No. 6,055,205 to Rao et al.) is respectfully traversed, because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested by the references and does not provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Cliff with teachings of Rao.

In addition to the original limitations, the Cliff Rao combination neither shows nor suggests the limitations of generating for each column of RAM cells a respective selection signal as a function of the error flag associated with the column and a

selection signal carried in from an adjacent column of RAM cells, and selecting for input to the column of RAM cells, one of a first set of bits of configuration data addressed to the column of RAM cells and a second set of bits of configuration data addressed to the adjacent column. Furthermore, the Cliff-Rao combination neither shows nor suggests, in combination with the other limitations, the limitations of initiating operation of the PLD that has the first array configured for operation of the PLD; initiating a built in self test (BIST) procedure on the configured first array; and resuming operation of the PLD when no errors associated with the first array are reported by the BIST procedure.

The rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27-30, 32-34, 36-39, 41, and 42 over the Cliff-Rao combination should be withdrawn.

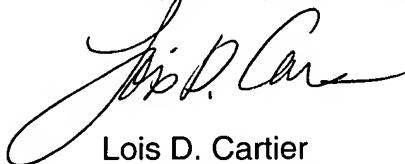
The rejection of claims 2, 12, 16, 26, and 35 under 35 USC §103(a) over the Cliff-Rao combination further in view of “Venkatraman” (US Patent Pub. No. 2002/0120826 to Venkatraman et al.) is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested by the references and does not provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Cliff-Rao with teachings of Venkatraman. However, the rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2, 12, 16, 26, and 35 over the Cliff-Rao-Venkatraman combination should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 8, 22, 31, and 40 under 35 USC §103(a) over the Cliff-Rao combination further in view of “AAPA” (Applicant's Admitted Prior Art) is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations are suggested by the references and does not provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Cliff-Rao with teachings of AAPA. However, the rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to the claims. Therefore, the rejection of claims 8, 22, 31, and 40 over the Cliff-Rao-AAPA combination should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

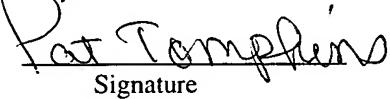
Respectfully submitted,



Lois D. Cartier  
Agent for Applicants  
Reg. No. 40,941

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on July 17, 2006.*

Pat Tompkins  
Name

  
Signature